



BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1972

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. F. J. Webb, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

T. L. Old, M.A.P.H.I.



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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

This is the last of the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health to the Bodmin Borough Council. In April next year the Council and the post of Medical Officer of Health will no longer exist. Although the report is of no great moment, the change has considerable significance. The Borough has been served by its own medical adviser for many years, the last twenty five of which it has been my privilege to undertake. I cannot speak for my predecessors but I feel sure that their relationship with the Council was as pleasant as that which I have always enjoyed.

Preventive work in medicine is rarely a one man show, being essentially team work in which Councillors and staff contribute. Neither is it of the dramatic nature so frequently demonstrated in other branches of the profession on television, film and radio. The steady and persistent improvement in the health of the population is sufficient indication of the success of painstaking and often tedious routine work involved in Public Health, including as it does so many factors bearing on the subject. Housing, food, milk and water supplies, sewage and refuse disposal, and pollution, on the environmental side; the control and prevention of infectious diseases, mass screening, health education, family planning, school health and infant welfare on the personal side are all within the purview of the Medical Officer of Health and his staff. It would be fair to say that steady improvement is plain to see over the past years.

The form in which advice will be given to the new Authority, even at this late hour, is still not determined. Environmental problems will remain the direct responsibility of the Authority through its Environmental Officer. The personal health services will be the responsibility of the Area Health Authority. Medical advice to the Local Authority will be via a "Community Physician", a servant of the Area Health Authority. The public has long been in the habit of having direct access to its Medical Officer of Health for information and help in appropriate fields. This privilege, if not lost, will be more difficult to exercise. What, I wonder, will the strange title of "Community Physician" mean to most people. I can only regret the loss of the title of Medical Officer of Health, which in the eyes of most people had some useful significance. I have frequently argued with my colleagues that the role of Medical Officer of Health was overdue for review, but the impending new relationship between the authority and its medical adviser is not the change I would have sought.

The change is now inevitable and it only remains for me to express my sincere thanks to the Borough and its people for the privilege of working with them over the years, to the Aldermen and Councillors and Staff with whom I have been fortunate in having such good relationships. Equally, I express my sorrow at the simultaneous demise of so ancient a Borough and its Medical Officer of Health.

I can no longer beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.



# I GENERAL STATISTICS

Registrar General's estimate of mid year population	9,900
Area in Acres	3,312
Number of inhabited houses	3,245
Rateable Value	£855.053
Product of penny rate	£857.8
Comparability factors	Births 1.05
	Deaths 0.31

## Vital Statistics

### Number of Registered Live Births, 1972

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	80	91	171
Illegitimate	8	7	15
TOTAL	88	98	186

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.8
Comparable Birth Rate	19.7
Birth Rate England and Wales	14.8

### Stillbirths

Three stillbirths were notified, one male and two female.

### Deaths

### Number of Registered Deaths, 1972

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	81	109	190
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	19.2		
Comparable Death Rate	6.0		
Death Rate England and Wales			

### Infant Deaths

Two infant deaths occurred during the year.

## Distribution of Deaths by Cause, Sex and Age, 1972

Cause	Sex	0	1	14	24	34	44	54	64	74 & 75+	TOTAL
Heart	M	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	12	11	28
Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	17	27
Cerebro	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	3	13
Vascular	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	15	20
Disease											
Cancer	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	2	8
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	10
Respiratory	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	8	14
Disease	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	16	20
Accident	M	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Others	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	8	16
	F	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	6	18	27
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TOTAL	M	2	-	-	1	1	3	11	31	32	81
	F	-	-	-	2	1	1	10	20	75	109

## II GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals Since the amalgamation of the St. Lawrence's and West Cornwall Hospital Management Committees, the local administration of St. Lawrence's and East Cornwall Hospitals and Elizabeth Barclay Home have been combined. An ante-natal and gynaecological clinic has not yet been established to serve the immediate area. Patients must still travel to St. Austell or Truro for Consultant supervision. Most other specialties are reasonably well catered for.

### County Council Services

Ambulances Vehicles based on the main station in the Town provided an adequate service during the year.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Nurses working in close association with family doctors provided an adequate service. The number of domiciliary confinements is now extremely small.

Infant Welfare The clinic at Narisa Hall provided good facilities for immunisation of children under five years of age, and advice on the general care of infants and children.

Vaccination and Immunisation Protective inoculations were available at surgeries and schools. The acceptance rate for all forms of protection with the exception of measles was at a satisfactory level.

Screening Clinics Examinations for the early detection of cervical and breast cancer were held at clinics in St. Lawrence's Hospital, Health Centre, Wadebridge, and at surgeries. Although not a County Council Service, the Mass Radiography Unit is available in the Priory Car Park on alternate Fridays.

School Health Service The general standard of fitness observed in pupils examined in Primary and Secondary schools was satisfactory. More children with moderately severe handicaps are able to be educated in normal schools with the employment of ancillary helpers.

Voluntary Agencies Family Planning Association, Meals on Wheels, Play Groups all provide essential services to the community and are well supported.

### III SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies The supply from the North and Mid Cornwall Water Board to the town was adequate in quantity and quality during the year. Fluoridation of the supply has not yet been implemented.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal The three sewage works continue to serve the town, the oldest at Dragon Pits is still overloaded. The new sewage scheme for the town will shortly be finalized and tenders are scheduled for invitation in September, 1974. When complete, this scheme will increase the town's sewage capacity and enable the termination of the use of Dragon Pits. Sludge drying continued to present difficulties both at Westheath and Scarletts Well, resulting in all sludge being removed by tanker.

Refuse Collection and Disposal Refuse is continuing to be disposed of at Conce Moor in conjunction with St. Austell R.D.C. A new refuse vehicle was delivered in the Spring. A separate collection of paper and cardboard was made from business premises but this has since been discontinued. Litter, especially along the main highway still poses a problem.

Rodent Control Routine inspections of both agricultural and non agricultural premises totalled 1,628 and 49 complaints were investigated. There were 57 infestations of rats and 2 infestations of mice in non agricultural premises. In agricultural premises there were three infestations of rats. The town sewer systems had no infestations. Warfarin in a rusk base was used in all treatments.

Caravan Sites - Control of Development Act, 1960 The Dunmere Caravan Site with nineteen permanent caravans was well maintained. In addition there were individual licences issued. The new tourist site was opened in the Spring and is capable of holding 150 caravans. It is a model site in all respects.

Swimming Pool The swimming pool has continued to be extensively used by schools, clubs and the general public. No serious outbreaks of plantar warts or athletes foot were reported.

Chlorine and pH tests were carried out four times a day and records are kept of each test. The changing rooms continue to be washed out three times a day and the footbaths were similarly cleaned and refilled.

## Public Health Inspections

### Summary of Visits

Meat Inspections	480
Housing	39
Food Establishments	492
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	190
Others	78

### IV FOOD AND DRUGS

There were ten registered premises for the distribution of milk in 1972. Seventy four premises were registered as manufacturing, storing or selling food. Ice cream was sold from twenty two premises all of which were maintained in a satisfactory condition. Ice cream made for a complete cold pre-mix and water ices continued to be manufactured at one premises for sale in vans outside the Bodmin Area. These premises were maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Condemned Foods The following items were surrendered voluntarily:-

- 2,264 packs of frozen foods
- 1,998 tins of assorted foodstuffs
  - 3 boxes of strawberries
  - 18 boiling fowls
  - 36 packs of cake mix
  - 26 lbs of flour
  - 42 lbs of cheese
  - 33 trays of cream
- 382 lbs of meat
- 100 sacks of carrots

Imported foods All imported foods entering Bodmin during the year were inspected at the ports of entry. No inspections were carried out under the Imported Foods Regulations, 1968.

Slaughter of Poultry No premises were registered for the slaughter of poultry in Bodmin during 1972.

Slaughter of Animals and Meat Inspection The two licensed slaughter-houses continued to operate satisfactorily. All carcasses including those slaughtered at St. Lawrence's Hospital were inspected.

The analysis of inspections was as follows:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	391	8	644	576
Number inspected	391	8	644	576
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Cysticercosis and T.B.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	43	-	12	29
<u>Tuberculosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	-	-	-	9
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	5	-	-	-
Gross weight of meat condemned	1,056		86	392

#### V FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The industrial development of the town continued during the year. There were 51 inspections of factories carried out. There were three defects found, each one being remedied informally.

Summary of Inspections:-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	46	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	64	51	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) No. separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

## VI HOUSING

Slum Clearance No dwellings were demolished for slum clearance during the year.

### Housing Development

#### (a) Council

Hillside Park The Contract for 150 dwellings has been completed and the six months maintenance period work carried out.

Berryfields Phase I The Contract for 135 dwellings is still in progress and to date 86 dwellings have been completed. It is envisaged that the remainder will have been completed by June 1973. Some maintenance inspections have been carried out but the remedial work has not yet been started.

Berryfields Phase II The Contract for a further 138 dwellings is in progress and the first completions for this contract is scheduled for the middle of 1973.

St. Piran's Close At the end of February this year the remaining seven Old Peoples dwellings were completed. This now completes the contract, the six months maintenance and remedial work has been carried out.

Barton Close The Contract for the five dwellings was completed at the end of April. The six months maintenance remedial work has been carried out.

#### (b) Private

115 dwellings were completed and 114 were under construction at the end of the year

Grants Nine applications for a Standard Grant were received, seven were approved and two refused, and twenty eight applications for an Improvement Grant were received, twenty one were approved and seven refused.

Common Lodging Houses There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Borough.

## VII PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total notifications of infectious disease during 1972 was five (four measles and one pulmonary tuberculosis).

As already stated the acceptance rate for all forms of protective inoculations with exception of measles is high.